

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Nadine Bell called the January 20, 2015 Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Councilor Guy Drapeau. Also present: Guy Scaife (Director of Public Safety/Town Manager), John Mehr (Finance Director) Chief Mike Custer (RHPD), Deputy Chief Bill Keehner (RHPD), Chief Mike Garrahy (RHFD), Assistant Chief Dave Kromas (RHFD), Chief Joe Grayeb (RHVAA), Deputy Chief Vivian Grayeb (RHVAA), Christa Mariner and Sophie Mariner (Residents of R.H.) and Thomas Cardini Jr. (Resident of R.H.).

Those absent: Councilor Bill MacDonald and Fire Marshal Rich Renstrom.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Drapeau made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

III. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Bell asked if anyone from the public wished to speak at this time. Christa Mariner, 58 Farms Village Road, R.H., introduced herself and Sophie Mariner passed out some correspondence to the Councilors, the RHPD, Town Manager Scaife and the Recording Secretary. Christa Mariner said she also had four additional copies of this if they felt that this should also be given to the Engineering Department. Christa Mariner read this correspondence aloud and in full. (Please see the First Attachment.)

Chairwoman Bell mentioned that there had been another accident recently at Pratt Street and Dividend Road. Chief Custer said it was possible but he wasn't aware of it. The line of sight issue had been talked about a couple of meetings ago and Chairman Bell wondered if there were any further updates on this. Town Manager Scaife said signs were put there. The Department of Transportation (DOT) had come out and made some recommendations, which he thinks have been completed. It was recommended though that there be no additional stop signs or lights placed there. He referred to painting there on the street, as well as some caution signs on Dividend Road. He asked Chief Custer if he recalled any more than this and he didn't. Chairwoman Bell asked if there are any LED signs, which let people know the speed they are going, in Rocky Hill or if they have considered using them. Chief Custer said this has been

raised in the past but the Town currently isn't utilizing those signs, which tend to be effective. He isn't sure if the DOT would allow them to place these signs on the street in addition to what is there but he will have this looked into. Chairwoman Bell asked Chief Custer to get back to them about this.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

V. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

A. Fire

Chief Garrahy said the RHFD responded to 41 incidents in December and the year-to-date total for 2014 is 551. They recorded 417 training hours and the year-to-date total is 5,376. For administrative hours, 183 were recorded and the year-to-date total is 1,668. There were no injuries and the year-to-date total is 1. Staffing remains the same at 69 members with 66 being active presently.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted 30 building inspections in December and the year-to-date total for 2014 is 270. There were 3 CO inspections and the year-to-date total is 72. There were 11 plan reviews and the year-to-date total is 189. There were 44 administrative hours recorded and the year-to-date total is 404.

The RHFD will be presenting a check for approximately \$3,000 this evening to the Linda Clemens Cancer Foundation. The members raised this through a T-shirt sale.

A full day of training was recently spent on Firehouse Software, which allows the RHFD to be managed. They will be able to document and track their activities a lot better.

The RHFD thanked Stepny Towers at 1800 Silas Deane Highway because they had allowed them to train in that facility which is going through renovations. They typically don't get sites that often like that and the training was very good.

Chief Garrahy said he had been asked previously to bring forward some of the bullet points for the Volunteer Workforce Solutions Grant. The RHFD was accepted for this two year grant, which had been awarded to the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. Rocky Hill is one of fifteen Towns that will be participating in this. The Town's demographics have been studied to show fire station locations and population centers. The location of the RHFD members' houses has been entered into GIS so that they can get an idea of where to target future recruitment. There has been some training already and two Staff Captains have been assigned retention and recruitment duties. The recruitment procedures for the RHFD have been reviewed and streamlined. There will be a full day kickoff meeting on February 28, 2015 in Cromwell. The Recruitment Officers will then formulate a Town specific recruitment plan with the media items (marketing materials) they have (i.e. refrigerator magnets and tri-fold packets, etc.). Each of RHFD's Companies will also be providing a member to help out. The International Association

of Fire Chiefs is making marketing calls to find out who is doing what in the Town (i.e. who orders fast food, etc.) and they will provide this information so the RHFD can go to those places to give pamphlets (recruitment). This is still a work that is in progress but he thinks they have a good start on it.

Assistant Chief Kromas said the radio upgrade projects are continuing being worked on with the digital conversions and it will take another year probably before this is totally completed.

Assistant Chief Kromas said the Microwave project is going well. Work is being done at 1800 Silas Deane Highway, R.H. and other places. He is working with Sergeant Joe Phelps and some more radios are continuing to be ordered.

Assistant Chief Kromas said the preemption system is getting ready to be tested. This is done once a year and this enables traffic lights to change from red to green as fire vehicles are approaching them. He will then see if he can replace any of the equipment if it comes back as being unrepairable.

Assistant Chief Kromas is continuing working with the IT Department with regards to the upgrading of some things, as well as for the replacement of some computers. Chairwoman Bell asked if they are getting the IT support that is needed. Assistant Chief Kromas said they are at this time. He will be having a meeting with Russ Ford (Director of IT and Facilities), John Nowakowski (IT) and Wally Cone (IT) this Friday.

Councilor Drapeau asked if the air packs are working. Chief Garrahy said yes.

B. Ambulance

Chief Grayeb said there were 341 calls in Rocky Hill and the year-to-date total for 2014 is 4,181.

The RHVAA is working with Sergeant Phelps to order more portable radios to get ahead if the Town goes to a digital radio frequency.

Chip Pillsbury, one of RHVAA's senior members just retired after doing 33 ½ years of service. This will be a great loss to them. He was on their Executive Board almost his whole career and he was a past President.

The RHVAA, with the assistance of the RHFD, had its first UTV rescue. A young child had severe injuries in the middle of the Rolling Greens Golf Course, which was icy and snow covered. The child was secured, loaded into the UTV and brought to where the ambulance was. There was a great team effort and this in itself paid for the UTV. Chairwoman Bell said hopefully the child is okay. Chief Garrahy said the child was in the worst possible place and difficult to get to.

Councilor Drapeau asked how the roof is doing at their building. Chief Grayeb said it has been fixed and there are no more leaks.

C. Police

Chief Custer said there were 2,342 calls for service in December that were handled through the Dispatch Center. Forty-six criminal arrests were made and 51 accidents were investigated. One DUI arrest was made. One hundred and twelve infractions were issued and another 218 warnings were issued. There were 27 Town tickets also issued.

Everything seems to be status quo at 60 West Street. There are 50 patients there. There was an ambulance call there in December which was for the transport of a patient to a hospital. The RHPD responded to a 911 call there but that was just due to a confused patient who had misdialled the phone. There were no fire calls.

The Staffing at the RHPD hasn't changed since this Committee's last meeting. They have been down one dispatcher but Chief Custer said they completed their rounds of interviews and they are down to one candidate now, who will be coming in this week for an interview with him. A conditional offer will probably be made to that candidate if he gets through that. Another dispatcher is on a Medical Leave of Absence. Three Officers are in the Police Academy and all three of them have a 90 average after their first quarter. There is also another vacancy due to an Officer out on maternity light duty.

Chief Custer said they are more than 75% complete with the Microwave project and that is going very well. Backordered parts are coming in and equipment is being installed at 1800 Silas Deane Highway. Four of the five sites are finished. They might be done towards the end of March 2015 or even earlier.

Councilor Drapeau noticed that there were upticks in burglaries in November and December. He asked Chief Custer if this is seen every year or if this is due to the holidays. Chief Custer said an uptick is seen during the holidays but it is usually for larcenies and not burglaries. There are two individuals who were doing a rash of burglaries in Rocky Hill and in outlying Towns too. They are suspects and warrants have been applied for so he is anticipating that this will go back to normal after they are arrested and brought to Court. Councilor Drapeau asked if it is suspected that those two individuals did a good portion of the burglaries. Chief Custer said yes and they have confessed to burglaries in the outlying Towns also.

VI. OTHER

Chairwoman Bell asked if there was any other business. Thomas Cardini Jr., 10 Dogwood Court, R.H., asked if he could read a letter that he wrote at this time and Chairwoman Bell said yes. Thomas Cardini Jr. read this letter aloud and in full. (Please see the Second Attachment.) Chairwoman Bell said she will make sure that Town Staff gets this.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Drapeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary